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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,723	11/28/2001	Satoshi Nishikawa	35.G2949	8316

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EXAMINER

QIN, YIXING

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/994,723

Applicant(s)

NISHIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Yixing Qin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-10, 16-20, 26-30 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-10, 16-20, 26-30 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to applicant's amendment received 5/2/06, all requested changes have been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 5/2/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The main argument is that Holt does not disclose two types of N-up printing based upon output sheet information. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As mentioned before, Holt shows in Figs. 14A-14C different layouts that can be printed and column 32, lines 8-66 disclose a printing example of 4-up printing. Column 17, lines 56-67 – column 19, lines 1-8 describe the drawings 14A-14C in detail. Specifically, column 18, lines 23-32 disclose that pages can be referred to by page coordinates, which depend upon margin and gap settings (i.e. margin and gap settings can read upon output sheet information since they determine why type of n-up printing occurs. See, column 16, lines 29-67 and column 17, lines 1-55 for descriptions of how pages are formed through the use of page sizes, gaps, grids and offsets. It should be obvious to one of ordinary skill that by providing various numbers for these settings, one can achieve physical and printable region n-up printing since the difference between the two appears to be the placement of the pages on a sheet of paper and the size of the gap between the pages. The rejection is maintained and is a first action final since the invention was the same as earlier claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

I. Claims 6-10, 16-20, 26-30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holt (U.S. Patent No. (5,495,561).

Claims 6, 16, 26, 32. Holt discloses an information processing apparatus for having a printer driver which generates print data to be printed at a printing apparatus using a plurality of pages of drawing data input from an application, comprising:

entry means for entering a designation of N-page printing in which drawing data of N pages ($N > 1$, N is an integer) is printed on one print sheet; (column 32, lines 8-10)

physical N-page printing arranging means for arranging the drawing data of each page at a center of each of equal N-divided areas of a physical sheet by scaling-down;

printable region N-page printing arranging means for arranging the drawing data of each page in each of equal N-divided areas of a printable region on a physical sheet by scaling-down; (Fig. 14A-C)

determining means for determining which one of said physical N-page printing arranging means and said printable region N-page printing arranging means is

employed to execute processing for arranging the pages on the basis of output sheet information, in a case where a print request occurs for the designation of N-page printing entered by said entry means; and (column 18, lines 23-32)

generation means for generating the print data by executing the determined one of said physical N-page printing arranging means and said printable region N-page printing arranging means. (column 16, lines 29-67 and column 17, lines 1-55)

Claims 7, 17, 27. Holt discloses an information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising condition acquiring means for acquiring a physical N-page printing condition, wherein said determining means determines, based on the physical N-page printing condition acquired by said condition acquiring means, which one of said physical N-page printing arranging means and said printable region N-page printing arranging means is employed to execute processing for arranging the pages. (column 32, lines 51-63, one can see that various rectangular coordinates (i.e. conditions) for determining the page size and printable area is used. The condition acquiring means can be the program or function that gets these variables. It would be obvious that, depending on the coordinates put in, the images on the page can be manipulated to look like the ones in Holt, Fig. 14, which is analogous to the physical and printable region N-page layouts being claimed.)

Claims 8, 18, 28. Holt discloses an information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said physical N-page printing condition is information indicating which

one of plural types of N-page printing is set to physical N-page printing. (Again, from claim 6 above, the example given said there was to be four copies that were to appear on one page. This combined with the condition information as explained in claim ,7 above meets the limitations of this claim.)

Claims 9, 19. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determining means determines. in a case where said output sheet information indicates 4-zone post card which is premised that a printed sheet is cut into N-sheets, to employ said physical N-page printing arranging means . (Column 32, lines 8-11 disclose that the example will create a brochure with 4 pages appearing on one sheet. Although the brochure is not a post card, the general idea is the same. The cutting of paper is well known (see page 3 of the specification) and would be obvious to one of ordinary skill to incorporate information regarding the cutting of sheets as a printing condition, if needed. As explained above in claim 6, one can see various information that is designated in, for example, Figs. 1 1-13 of Holt. The determined result from this can be seen in Fig. 14A-C. It would be obvious there can be various predetermined output sheet information (such as size).)

Claims 10, 20, 30. Holt discloses an information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said condition acquiring means acquires said physical N-page printing condition from an external device. (Fig. 5, Holt shows the usage of different print channels and hosts for inputting information to be printed.)

Claim 29. Holt discloses a printing control program according to Claim 27, wherein said physical N-page printing condition is information indicating that physical N-page printing is set when a predetermined output sheet size is designated. (As explained above in claim 6, one can see various information that is designated in, for example, Figs. 1 1-13 of Holt. The determined result from this can be seen in Fig. 14A-C. One of the pieces information that is needed would be the size, as is apparent from column 12, line 18 of Holt.)

Conclusion

All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


YQ


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